

INTRODUCTION

Neighborhood Patterns is the second volume of the Bellevue Census 2000 report. The report is intended to summarize and analyze findings from the 2000 Census relating to the city of Bellevue. The first volume of the report, "Citywide & Regional Trends," released in January 2003, presented information for the city as whole, analyzed changes in the city between 1990 and 2000, and compared and contrasted demographic trends in Bellevue with those in the region as a whole, and in some cases with other cities in the area. This second volume concentrates more on trends that are occurring within the Bellevue community itself and presents and analyzes demographic patterns at a more localized subarea and neighborhood level within the city.

Background

Every ten years the United States Census Bureau attempts to count every person in the United States. The most recent decennial Census was conducted in April 2000. Census data are used for several purposes. Historically, the most pertinent use has been to determine the number of representatives each state is given in the United States House of Representatives and to preserve the principle of one person - one vote. In accordance with U.S. Public Law 94 - 171, the first data released each time a census is conducted pertain directly to Congressional redistricting. The first release of data covers such topics as total population and households, race, and voting-age population (18 years of age and over). This information is gathered in the census "short form," which is supposed to be filled out for every person in the United States. This information was released to the public for Bellevue and other places in the U.S. in March 2001.

In addition to this demographic information gathered on the short form, the Census Bureau also gathers more detailed socio-economic information in a longer census form. This "long form" was filled out by one out of every six households in the United States. The socio-economic information gathered in the long form, which covered social, economic, and housing characteristics, was released in spring 2002 at the citywide level. In September 2002, socio-economic data were released at smaller levels of geography (census tracts and census blocks).

This volume of the Bellevue Census 2000 Report presents information about Bellevue neighborhoods taken from both the short and long forms. This volume, like the first is mainly composed of a series of chapters analyzing these findings by the following census topics:

- Population
- Household and age characteristics
- Race and ethnicity, place of birth, and language
- Education, income, and employment
- Housing and residential patterns
- Transportation

Given the current volume's focus on neighborhoods, it is also useful to examine how information on these subjects come together to characterize individual areas of the city. Bellevue has 15 subareas that the city and its residents have designated for planning purposes. Each subarea has a distinctive character and mix

of land uses. This volume adds a chapter summarizing key findings separately for fourteen of the fifteen planning subareas (the exception being the Bel-Red/Northup subarea, which is a commercial area). This "Key Findings by Subarea" chapter directly follows this introduction and precedes the series of chapters arranged by census topic.

Methodology

Information from the decennial census is provided at many different levels of geography: state, region, and county (and by Metropolitan Statistical Areas); place (citywide), which was the focus of the first volume; and smaller geographies that are typically smaller than cities. Specifically, these smaller geographies are census tracts, census blocks, and census block groups:

- **Census tracts** are small, relatively permanent subdivisions of a county delineated for purposes of providing census data. Census tracts typically have populations ranging from 2,500 to 8,000 persons, with 4,000 persons being about the national average. There are 29 census tracts in the city of Bellevue. Some of these tracts are located entirely within the city; many others are partly within and partly outside the city limits.
- **Census blocks** are the smallest geographic unit for which the Census Bureau tabulates data. Many census blocks correspond to city blocks. There are hundreds of census blocks within Bellevue. **Census block groups** are subdivisions of census tracts and collections of census blocks, meaning that they are at a level in between tracts and blocks. Each census tract is typically made up of three to six block groups.

This volume of the Bellevue Census 2000 Report includes about 50 "thematic" maps of Bellevue showing how characteristics measured by the decennial census within Bellevue by neighborhood. Most of these maps show data from the 2000 Census, but some maps are also included that show change between the 1990 Census and the 2000 Census. Unless otherwise indicated, maps based on information from only the 2000 Census show data at the census block group level. Mapping at this geographic level helps to capture the variation that often exists *within* a single census tract. Thematic maps showing changes between 1990 and 2000 are based on calculations at the census tract level. (Given that several tracts were split between 1990 and 2000, use of tract boundaries from 1990 was required in trend maps to maintain a consistent geographic base.¹)

Maps presenting 1990 to 2000 trend data for a subset of the population show "change in percentage" values rather than "percentage change" data. Showing the change in percentage of the population that is made up of a certain subset of the population most effectively reveals how the subset of the population has increased or decreased relative to the population as a whole.² (Examples of these maps include those showing the *change in the percentage* of persons who are seniors and the *change in the percentage* of households with one person.) Trend maps referring to the *overall* population of residents or households are based on straight percentage change data. (Examples of the latter include the *percentage change* in the population and the *percentage change* in per capita income.)

¹ The splitting of tracts, and renaming of some tracts occurred in many communities across the nation and in a few tracts containing areas in Bellevue. This was particularly true for tracts with fast growing populations.

² If the number of persons within a subgroup in a tract increased at exactly the same rate as the larger population in the tract, the change in percentage of the population that is part of the subgroup is zero. The change in percentage is positive only if the numbers in the subgroup increased faster than the overall population in that tract.

All of the thematic maps in this volume show the city's planning subarea boundaries outlined over the census data. This is done to help readers cross-reference the observations made in "Key Findings by Subarea" chapter with the thematic maps and associated findings discussed in the topic-by-topic chapters. Overlaying subarea boundaries on the thematic maps also provides readers with a convenient way to view the data in those maps. However, census figures cannot be reported for each subarea as a unit because most of city's subarea boundaries are significantly different from the census-designated boundaries.³

Census data is shown on the thematic maps for all areas of Bellevue within current (2003) city limits, regardless of *when* each area was annexed. While census data is shown on the thematic maps for all areas currently within Bellevue city limits, census figures cited for "Bellevue as a whole"—both in the narrative parts of each chapter and below the legend in the maps—are based on the boundaries of Bellevue when the 2000 Census was conducted. This is because the 2000 Census data available for Bellevue as a place was based on the city's boundaries at that time.

Appendix A of this volume contains a set of Bellevue reference maps that the reader may want to consult in tandem with thematic maps showing census data. The reference maps cover the following topics:

- census tracts for 1990 and 2000
- annexations by decade
- zoning
- neighborhood areas defined for the Bellevue's Neighborhood Enhancement Program (which are somewhat different than the city's subarea planning boundaries)
- neighborhood and community associations

Another important factor to note regarding the thematic maps is that there are large portions of Bellevue which are designated by the City's zoning map for commercial or industrial use, and therefore have little or no residential population. These include much of the Bellevue-Redmond Road/State Route 520 corridor, areas along the Interstate 405 and Interstate 90 corridors, and parts of Downtown Bellevue. Given that census information pertains to residential populations (those who live in Bellevue), information from the census is not shown for these areas on the maps.

While the Census Bureau reports that the 2000 Census was the most accurate decennial Census in history and the Census represents the most definitive and comprehensive source of data on the nation's population and housing characteristics, it is important to recognize that census data from both the short form and the long form questionnaires are still estimates.⁴ The degree of sampling error at the level of sampling used for the long form questionnaire tends to be quite small for geographies with moderate or large populations including medium-sized cities such as Bellevue, but is potentially greater at smaller levels of geography such as blocks and block groups.

³ A related issue is the fact that city limit boundaries also do not correspond exactly with the boundaries of census-designated geographies. Some census-designated tracts, block groups, and even blocks cross city boundaries. In these cases, the data mapped relate to the entire tract (or block group or block) and not just the part of the tract that is in Bellevue, although the maps only show the part of the tract that falls within Bellevue city limits.

⁴ Technical Documentation for the 2000 Census provides more details: <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf1.pdf>; <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf>. Also, because different datasets were produced from the long and short form questionnaires, figures on subjects covered in both questionnaires (e.g., the number of housing units and households) vary slightly between the datasets.

Use of Information

The information gathered as part of the 2000 Census gives the City, other public agencies, and the public at large a glimpse of who we really are as a community and what demographic trends are occurring within the community. Census information can be used to help determine the type of programs and services that can best serve the community as it is, and can also be used to provide clues to the type of community we are likely to become in the future. By focusing on what is and has been occurring in Bellevue neighborhoods, this volume will provide particular value to those interested in programming services that meet different needs within the community.

More information on Bellevue demographics and the 2000 Census is available on the City's website at <http://www.cityofbellevue.org/planning.asp>. This includes downloadable versions of both volumes of the Bellevue Census 2000 report. In addition to the observations cited in this report, there are many more insights and implications that can be drawn from Census information by other users of these data in the community.

Questions on the information presented in this report, or any other questions on the 2000 Census as it pertains to Bellevue, should be directed to the Planning Division, Bellevue Department of Planning & Community Development, at 425-452-7857.

Much more census information for Bellevue and other communities can also be found on the Census Bureau's Factfinder website at factfinder.census.gov/.